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ECA'S TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN PLANNING, STATISTICS, POPULATION AND INFORMATICS AND DOCUMENTATION

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ANNEX I LIST OF PROJECTS EXECUTED BY ECA IN THE FIELDS OF PLANNING, STATISTICS, POPULATION AND INFORMATICS AND DOCUMENTATION

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ECA'S TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN PLANNING, STATISTICS, POPULATION AND INFORMATICS AND DOCUMENTATION

I. Introduction

1. The role of donors and international development institutions, including ECA and OAU, in supporting the efforts of member States to implement the Lagos Plan of Action (LPA) is clearly stated in the guidelines for the implementation of LPA: «International development institutions can play the role of generator of new ideas, of adviser on technical issues and of financier. This role should be mainly supportive of the efforts of member States and not a substitute.»

2. The present paper summarizes the ECA's technical assistance in planning, statistics, population and informatics and documentation during the period 1981-1985 within the framework of the Lagos Plan of Action. It is intended to supplement the paper on technical and financial assistance in planning, statistics, demography, informatics and documentation (E/ECA/PSD.4/6) prepared by the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (DTCD) which, within the United Nations Secretariat, serves as the main channel of technical support to the development efforts of the developing countries at the national level.

3. ECA's technical assistance in the fields indicated is delivered mainly through the substantive divisions/offices concerned, namely the Socio-economic Research and Planning Division (SERPD), the Statistics Division, the Population Division and the Pan-African Documentation and Information System (PADIS). Efforts were made to enable these divisions/offices to support each other or to operate jointly as the need arises. For example, the Officer-in-Charge of PADIS undertook a mission to Algeria, on behalf of the Statistics Division, in connection with the processing of the 1980 Population Census of Uganda, following an agreement between the two countries. Also, a number of joint or multidisciplinary missions were organized. These involved for example the Population and the Statistics Divisions, and the SERPD and the Statistics Division.

4. The Technical Assistance Co-ordination and Operations Office (TACOO) ensures the management and co-ordination of ECA's technical co-operation activities.

5. The operational activities in statistics and population were carried out to a large extent through specific extrabudgetary projects although there were also contributions from the regular budget and the United Nations Regular Programme of Technical Co-operation. These projects received financial support from the

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA). A list of the relevant projects together with the project budgets approved for 1984-1985 is attached in Annex I.

6. It should be noted that technical assistance in the field of planning is also provided by the Institute for Economic Development Planning (IDEP) located in Dakar, Senegal. IDEP was established about two decades ago by the United Nations under the auspices of ECA.

II. ECA Technical Assistance in Planning

7. ECA has undertaken a variety of technical assistance and advisory services activities to African countries in the field of planning during the period 1984-1985. These activities include:

1. Technical Assistance

(i) Technical assistance has been provided to Benin in the preparation of its national economic recovery interim plan (1986-1987) in April 1984. This interim plan was meant to form a basis for discussions with donor countries and international organizations, especially with regard to the implementation of medium-term priority projects which were presented to the country's first round table conference with its partners in development in 1985.

(ii) Technical assistance has been provided to Rwanda and Mauritius in November 1984 and March 1985 respectively in the establishment of short-term forecasting systems based on social accounting matrices. The services included the establishment and/or updating of an input-output table and some related accounts of the Social Accounting Matrix (SAM) constructed during the first joint mission in 1983 and to install the short-term forecasting model in the micro-computer of the Ministries of Planning.

(iii) Technical assistance was provided to Mali in the preparation of the documents of its Second Donors Round Table Conference of Mali in December 1984. An assessment of the programmes of financial and economic recovery of the country was made. Measures to be undertaken in this context were proposed.

(iv) ECA sent an interdisciplinary mission to Chad in April 1984 to critically evaluate the economic and social situation of the country which was affected by the civil war and drought. The mission identified areas where ECA can provide technical assistance to Chad. In the field of planning, four projects regarding the elaboration of the national recovery plan, the training of manpower for local planning, and the establishment of planning organs at various government levels were proposed to the Government.

(v) In response to Resolution 501(XIX) of ECA Conference of Ministers which stipulated inter-alia, the establishment of perspective outlooks at the subregional level, ECA Secretariat, at the request of the CILSS countries, undertook a perspective study of the Sahelian region (1983-1998) entitled: «Economic Development of CILSS Member States: a Perspective Study 1983-1998». A Colloquium was also organized in November 1985 in Dakar to discuss this joint CILSS/ECA document and a declaration was adopted calling for an Action Programme for the rehabilitation of the Sahelian countries.

(vi) In response to Resolution No. 1 of the Niamey Multpoc Council of Ministers of February 1985, ECA participated in the preparation of the study entitled: «Interrelationship between Drought, Desertification and Economic Crisis in West African Countries». The study covered the overall economic and development crisis, the sectoral implication of drought and desertification in industry, transport and communication, energy and made an assessment of the needs of the West African countries. Measures needed to combat drought, desertification and economic crises in West African countries were proposed.

(vii) ECA provided technical assistance to the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL) in the elaboration of their five year Regional Development Plan. At the initial stage, ECA provided a framework for the establishment of a subregional profile from the analysis of the main macro-economic and sectoral indicators, the definition of subregional development objectives and assessment of their impact on national development objectives and plans, was also made along with the identification of actions needed at the national level to fulfil the subregional objectives. Subsequently, a subregional programme is to be proposed to the CEPGL Secretariat.

2. Advisory Technical Assistance Services

8. Within the framework of the Substantial New Programme of Action, ECA participated and provided support to the following African Least Developed Countries at their round table meetings with donors: Chad (Dec. 1985), Equatorial Guinea (Dec. 1985), Gambia (Nov. 1984), Guinea Bissau (May 1984), Lesotho (May 1984), Mali (Nov. 1985), Sao Tome and Principe (Dec. 1985), and Togo (June 1985).

III. ECA Technical Assistance in Statistics

9. In the field of statistics, technical assistance is delivered mainly through operational activities under 5 projects, namely the African Household Survey Capability Programme (AHSCP); the Regional Advisory Service in Demographic Statistics (RASDS); the Technical Co-operation project in Demographic Statistics in Central Africa (UDEAC/CEIP); the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA); and the National Accounts Capability Programme (NACP), including Assistance to Least Developed Countries and newly independent countries in National Accounts.

1. African Household Survey Capability Programme (AHSCP)

10. It should be recalled that the AHSCP is designed to help African countries obtain, through household surveys and in conjunction with data from censuses and administrative records, a continuing flow of integrated statistics for their development plans, policies and programmes and in line with their own priorities. In 1977 the programme was extended by a resolution of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to cover other developing regions and thus a global version of the AHSCP entitled National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP). Seventeen African countries are so far participating in the AHSCP. These are: Egypt, Morocco and Sudan in North Africa; Benin, Mali, and Senegal in West Africa; Cameroon, Congo and Rwanda in Central Africa; Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe in Eastern and Southern Africa. The survey programmes in 11 countries are already operational. Six countries formally participating in the AHSCP are still not operational (Congo, Egypt, Rwanda, Senegal, Sudan and the United Republic of Tanzania). The main problem has been the mobilisation of resources to pay part of the cost of their programmes.

The regional supporting services of AHSCP was established in the Statistics Division of ECA in 1978 with funds provided by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Two Household Survey Specialists were in post in 1984-1985, one for the English- and the other for the French-speaking African countries (see Annex II). It should also be indicated that the International Labour Organisation (ILO) provides a labour force survey specialist attached to the regional team of AHSCP to assist in the area of concern to the Organization. In addition the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), in association with ECA, backstops agricultural surveys. Moreover, at the time of writing this report, the Federal Republic of Germany was expected to finance shortly a post of Household Survey Data Processing Specialist attached to the regional component of AHSCP.

11. Twenty two technical and backstopping missions were undertaken under the project during the reporting period. The project staff also provided, wherever possible, technical assistance to countries through correspondence especially in content of questionnaires and sample designs. Development of methodology for the collection of household survey data has been a continuous effort. Illustrative questionnaires on labour force surveys have been developed and discussed in working groups. Illustrative tabulation programmes in respect of labour force and income, consumption and expenditure surveys have also been prepared. A start has been made on the development of capability for household survey data analysis and applications for which a special paper entitled "Policy Uses of Household Budget Surveys" has been prepared.

12. Finally, a Workshop on household surveys was held in Lusaka, Zambia, from 1 to 6 October 1984 for English-speaking African countries, with financial support from the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC). The meeting was attended by Directors of statistics on surveys from 15 African countries: Botswana, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. A similar workshop is planned to be held in 1986 for the French-speaking African countries.

2. Regional Advisory Service in Demographic Statistics (RASDS)

13. The RASDS, financed by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), took over as from 1978 the work of the African Census Programme (ACP). It monitors and provides technical support to population censuses, demographic surveys and civil registration systems and vital statistics programmes of the ECA member States. Six regional advisers were in post in 1984-1985. Their list is shown in the Annex II.

14. During the reporting period 108 advisory missions were undertaken to 35 member countries in connection with their population censuses/demographic surveys and civil registration and vital statistics programmes. The majority of these missions were undertaken at the request of governments or UNFPA representatives. Others were initiated by the regional advisory team to monitor the progress made in demographic data collection activities, particularly population censuse programmes in the various countries. The annual UNFPA monitoring schedule was used as guideline in planning missions during the reporting period.

15. Two training workshops, one on Census Taking and the other on Use of Statistical Software Packages for French-speaking African countries were organized in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 - 15 October and 16 - 26 October 1984 respectively. The workshops, financed by UNFPA, were attended by 24 participants from 15 African countries: Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Comoros, Congo, Djibouti, Gabon, Guinea, Madagascar, Mali, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo and Zaire. The objectives of the workshops were to assist the countries concerned in their efforts for the preparation and execution of their population census programmes during the 1985-1994 decade and to encourage greater contact between statisticians, demographers and data processing specialists to ensure a better co-ordination of the different stages of the census. In addition to the PASDS staff, the United Nations Statistical Office, the US Bureau of the Census and the "Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques" (IFORD) gave technical support to the workshop. The Chief Technical Adviser of the UDEAC/CREP project also participated as instructor.

16. The following papers/reports were prepared by members of the regional advisory team during the period under reference:

1. Situation of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems in French-speaking African countries;
2. Review of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems in Chana;
3. Review of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System in Niger;
4. Remedial Measures to attain reasonable event and Spatial Coverage in Civil Registration System, with particular reference to Rural Areas;
5. Report on Training Workshop on Census Taking and Use of Statistical Software Packages for French-speaking African countries;

6. Evaluation of the 1980 Round of Population and Housing Censuses in Africa. Review of preparatory, enumeration, coverage evaluation and data processing phases;

7. Sources of International Migration Statistics in Africa.

17. The strategy adopted during the establishment of the RASDS was to reduce the number of country experts assigned to country projects and to ensure that nationals assume greater responsibility for such projects with the RASDS team backstopping them. This strategy has been put into effect and, as this process develops, there will be need for even a fewer number of country experts. This is the only way of ensuring national capability in this field and in the long run eliminating the provision of technical assistance at least on a large scale.

3. Technical Co-operation Project in Central Africa: UDEAC/CREP

18. The UDEAC/CREP project in Demographic Statistics, for which ECA is the executing agency, is located at the Secretariat of the "Union douaniére et économique pur l'Afrique Centrale (UDEAC)". It is a regional co-operation effort in the field of demographic and social statistics data collection, processing and analysis between the member States of UDEAC. The countries concerned are: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon. The project provides operational support to these countries in their population censuses, demographic surveys, and civil registration operations. Such support includes direct assistance in questionnaire design, preparation of tabulation programmes, and training of personnel.

19. The technical project staff comprises two experts (see Annex II). During the period under reference (1984-85) the project staff carried out 11 missions in the fields of population census, demographic surveys, civil registration, education and health statistics.

20. In addition, the associate expert undertook a number of missions during the period January - November 1984 and there were also ad hoc consultations between the project staff and relevant departments of the Central African Republic where the project is located. A typical example of backstopping missions undertaken by the project staff is the one carried out in December 1984/January 1985 by the Chief Technical Adviser to Congo in connection with the population census. The Chief Technical Adviser undertook an evaluation of the training of staff and the enumeration. To this end, he visited 7 enumeration areas (4 in rural and 3 in urban areas). He also gave assistance in the post enumeration activities such as the storage of the census questionnaires and the pre-processing operations including coding.

21. The following documents have been prepared jointly by the project staff and the Department of Demography of the Secretariat of UDEAC in 1984 - 1985:

1. Bulletin de Liaison Nos. 20, 21 and 22
2. Réf. 85 - 21

   Analyse abregee du recensement 1975 de la RCA
   Présentation des résultats
3. Réf. 85 - 22

   Analyse abrégée du recensement 1975 de la RCA
   Chapitre 1: Répartition de la population
4. Réf 85 - 23:

   Analyse abrégée du recensement 1975 de la RCA
   Chapitre 2: Les mouvements naturels
5. Réf. 85 - 24:

   Analyse abrégée du recensement 1975 de la RCA
   Chapitre 7: L'Activité économique
6. Réf. 85 - 25:

   Analyse abregée du recensement 1975 de la RCA
   Chapitre 5: Migrations internes

22. A manual for the training of civil registration personnel in the UDEAC member countries was also under preparation. A technical working group on population census was scheduled to be held in November 1985 but has been postponed to 1986. The meeting will focus on processing, evaluation and analysis of census data.

23. It should be pointed out that the activities of the PASDS and UDEAC/CREP project teams are co-ordinated by the same unit at ECA, the Censuses and Surveys Advisory Service of the Statistics Division, in collaboration with the Population Division.

4. Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA)

24. It may be recalled that the STPA was adopted in 1977 by the 10th Session of the Conference of African Statisticians and was formally instituted by resolution 9 ECO (XVIII) of the 18th Session of ECA Executive Committee in 1978. The main objective of the programme is to ensure that the African region has a permanent supply of qualified statistical staff for national statistical services and other organizations in the public sector as well as for the private sector. STPA was originally

conceived as a 10 year programme aiming at ensuring Africa's self-sufficiency by: (i) increasing the number of trained statisticians; and (ii) improving and maintaining the quality of statistical personnel already in service. To this end, assistance should be given to the centres participating in the programme so as to improve their efficiency and output, re-orient their teaching programmes with a view to making them more practical while at the same time maintaining good training standards and ensure that they became self-supporting as far as teaching staff is concerned. STPA comprises presently 15 participating centres and 5 associate centres.

25. The regional component of the programme financed by UNDP makes, provision for two statistical training advisers (see Annex II), advisory missions, fellowships for training of trainers, visiting lecturers, and group training.

26. Twenty advisory missions were undertaken under the project in 1984-85 to the following 11 African countries: Central African Republic, Congo, Gabon, Gambia, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe. The purposes of these missions were to discuss with the national statistical offices and/or STPA centres problems relating to statistical training and to provide advice or assist them in the implementation of their training programmes. In some cases, the advisers also participated in advisory board meetings of the STPA centres. Additional missions were undertaken to Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique and Sao Tome and Principe within the frame-work of the special assistance to the Portuguese-speaking African countries. Other missions visited Algeria, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Morocco, Rwanda, Senegal and Uganda in connection with the preparation of the draft guide syllabuses for professional statistical training. There was also a mission to Brussels (Belgium) within the framework of co-ordination of financial resources. Three new fellowships for training of trainers were awarded in 1984-85, making a total of 18 teaching staff attached to the various STPA centres, benefit-ting from this fellowship scheme. Eight visiting lecturers have been sent to some STPA centres during the period under reference to give lectures in agricultural statistics, statistical methods, household surveys, sampling techniques, national accounts and industrial statistics. Under group training, it should be noted that the attendance of directors of STPA centres and representatives of users at the 9th meeting of directors of STPA centres held in Addis Ababa in November 1985 was paid by the project.

27. The following documents have been prepared under the project during the period under review:

1. Guide Syllabus for In-service Statistical Training for the Use of Portuguese-speaking African Countries;

2. Guide Syllabus for Professional level Training for English-speaking Countries;

3. Guide Syllabus for Professional Level Training for French-speaking Countries;

4. Directory of Statistical Training Centres and Associate Centres Participating in the Statistical Training Programme for Africa, June 1985;

5. Directory of Statistical Training Centres not participating in the Statistical Training Programme for Africa, June 1985.

6. STPA News No. 6, 7, 8 and 9.

28. It is envisaged that the project would continue with the same activities as before with a few modifications or emphasis on the following aspects:

- Training of the trainers would take into account the different educational systems offered by the different countries;

- There would be added priority to in-service training of middle-level statisticians, particularly in the Portuguese-speaking countries;

- Use of the TCDC approach in providing specialised consultants on a short-term basis; and

- Support for post-graduate training programmes at some centres while strenghtening their capability for organising the first degree courses.

5. National Accounts Capability Programme (NACP)

29. It should be recalled that the NACP was launched in December 1982 as an essential part of a programme to build up the capability of developing African countries including the LDC's and NIC's in the field of national accounts. The programme aims at ensuring a proper place for national accounts in the integrated statistical systems of developing African countries. The achievement of this objective should enable

national accounts to perform three continuing functions: (i) providing guidelines for generating well-balanced flows of data from the subject units of the statistical services and its field survey organizations; (ii) serving as a tool for integrating and analysing economic data for the formulation of short and long-term policies with regard to general strategy and objectives; and (iii) providing a means of progress towards more elaborate analytical arrangements. The NACP, along with the on-going African Household Survey Capability Programme (AHSCP) and other programmes for the improvement and development of basic statistics and training, etc., would result in the development of integrated systems of national statistics serving the needs of African countries.

30. It should be indicated that the full financial and staff resources needed for the implementation of the programme have not yet been obtained. The relevant negotiations with the French Government and the World Bank have not so far materialised. The requirements consist of a Chief Technical Adviser, a second national accounts specialist, provision for consultants and funds for mission travel, training seminars and fellowships. At present, only the Chief Technical Adviser is on board (see Annex II). Funds for this part are provided for by ECA's regular budget. Under the circumstances, manpower resources available in the Statistics Division of ECA had to be mobilized towards the implementation of NACP.

31. Seventeen advisory missions were carried out in 1984-1985 by the Chief Technical Adviser of NACP and regular staff members of the Statistics Division in the field of national accounts and related economic statistics (industrial statistics and international trade statistics). The countries visited included Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania. The main purpose of these missions was to assist the central statistical offices in the improvement of the current methodology for the collection, compilation and analysis of the basic economic statistics required within the national accounts framework.

32. Finally, two training workshops in national accounts, one for the French- and the other for the English-speaking participants, were organized in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 30 September - 11 October 1985. The Workshop in French was attended by 18 participants from the following countries: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivôire, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Niger, Rwanda and Zaire. The Workshop in English was attended by 9 participants from Libya Arab Jamahiriya, Mozambique, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

6. Other technical assistance

33. A few additional missions were undertaken by regular staff members of the Division in connection with the statistical data base development and the statistical organisation during the same period, especially to Congo, Sierra Leone, Sudan and Zimbabwe.

IV. ECA Technical Assistance in Population

34. The Population Division received funds for the execution of seven projects. A short account of each project's activities is given below for the period 1984/85.

1. The Population Information Network for Africa (POPIN)

35. POPIN is a decentralized regional network intended to serve as a channel for collecting, processing and disseminating population information, with a co-ordinating unit in the Population Division of ECA. For 1984/85 UNFPA provided $523,000 for the co-ordinating unit. Funding for the sub-regional participating centres has still not been secured. During the reporting period, POPIN produced and distributed publications notably POPINDEX-Africa and POPIN-Africa Briefs. A computerized data base for POPIN-Africa was also created. The co-ordinating unit also organized a POPIN-Africa Review Meeting in 1984 and the POPIN-Africa Advisory Committee meeting in December 1985.

2. Advisory services

36. During 1984-85 the secretariat provided advisory services to assist member States in the formulation and implementation of population variables in development planning and in the evaluation of family planning programmes. The countries which benefitted from such services included Benin, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Guinea and Tanzania. Advisory services were also provided on analysis of demographic data (questionnaire design, tabulation programme, demographic data evaluation and analysis) to member States. Countries which benefitted included Botswana (1981 census), Cameroon (1986 census preparations), Central African Republic (1987 census preparations), Djibouti (1983 census), Equatorial Guinea (1983 census), Gambia (1983 census), Lesotho (1986 census preparations), Malawi (1977 census), Mauritania (1987 census), Mauritius (1983 census), Niger (1977 and 1987 censuses), Nigeria (1981 demographic survey and vital registration and migration statistics systems), Sao Tomé and Principé (1981 census), Zaire (1984 census), Zambia (1980 census). In the cases of Botswana and Malawi the detailed analytical reports were published and post census dissemination seminars were conducted. Comoros and Zambia were expected to host a national seminar on census results in December and November 1985 respectively;

Mauritius also hosted a health, morbidity and mortality seminar in 1985 for which ECA provided a resource person. Data analyses were undertaken for Gambia and Nigeria. The secretariat also provided advisory services to Central African Republic in the analysis of infant/childhood mortality.

37. Assistance was rendered to central statistical offices in Harare (Zimbabwe) and Lusaka (Zambia) in the preparations for on-the-job training for personnel engaged in census and other related data. Similarly, assistance was rendered to the Ministry of Health, Kenya in the preparations for training statistical clerks at MCH/FP. Workbooks based on the Kenyan, Zambian and Zimbabwean experiences were prepared to guide other member States.

38. Three regional advisers (one Anglophone and two Francophones) were in post during the period (see Annex II).

3. The Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS), Accra

39. RIPS continued to provide demographic training for nationals of the English-speaking African countries. Starting October 1985 a Master of Arts 12-month course was introduced to replace the former Graduate Diploma course. A Master of Philosophy course is also being introduced to replace the former Master of Arts course. In 1984 twenty-four students from 10 countries pursued the Graduate Diploma course and in 1985 twenty-seven students from 8 countries did the same course. The secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa continued to be responsible for the management of RIPS. A meeting of the Advisory Board on Studies and Research was held in 1984 and meetings of the Governing Council in 1984 and 1985. UNFPA continued to be the main funding source providing $763,580 in 1984 and $770,250 in 1985. The Ghana Government also continued to provide financial support to the institute though contributions from most of the other African countries have still not been forthcoming.

4. Institut de Formation et de Recherche Demographiques (IFORD), YAOUNDE

40. The main activity at IFORD during the 1984-85 biennium continued to be the two-year training course leading to the Diploma in Demography, for nationals of the French-speaking African countries. In 1984 nineteen students from fourteen countries received the diploma. There were 20 students from 13 countries in the second year, 1984/85 class. IFORD also organised middle-level training introductory courses in Statistics and Demography in Comoros (1984) and Djibouti (1985). The secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa continued

to be responsible for the management of the institute and organized meetings of its Advisory Board on studies and Research in 1984 and of its Governing Council in 1984 and 1985. UNFPA continued to be the main funding source providing $638,062 in 1984 and $755,000 in 1985. Contributions were also received from the member States ($80,000 in 1984 and $59,000 from January to September 1985) and assistance was also received from IDRC of Canada and the French Government.

5. Unite Socio-economique et Demographique (Institut du Sahel) Bamako

41. ECA continued to be executing agency for funds provided by UNFPA to the Socio-Economic and Demographic Unit of the Sahel Institute. These funds covered the cost of the two UN personnel on the project and amounted to $304,000 for the 1984-85 biennium. The Unit continued to promote and co-ordinate demographic research in the Sahel, provide fellowships for training of nationals, provide advisory services and finance surveys in the Sahel region. The study on Sahelian migrants in France was completed as well as the field work for the infant and child mortality surveys conducted in Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal. The Unit took an increasingly active role in ECA activities such as workshops and population information systems as they affect the Sahel countries.

6. Workshop on Demographic Estimates and Projections (Accra, 1985)

42. The workshop held in Accra, Ghana, from 15 - 29 July 1985 was aimed at bringing together participants from a selection of member States to share experience regarding the use of projections in planning and to provide training in the use of the UN computer programme in preparing national population projections. The workshop also discussed subnational and sectoral projections. The regional demographic institutes (RIPS and IFORD), the Sahel Institute and the UN Population Division (New York) collaborated with the ECA secretariat in organizing the workshop. Fifteen member countries participated in the workshop. These were Algeria, Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo and Zambia. UNFPA provided funds amounting to $149,500.

7. Analysis of National World Fertility Survey (WFS) Data

43. A training workshop was organized from 19 November - 28 December 1984 in Addis Ababa to assist African Governments to speed up analysis of their national fertility surveys.

It included training on the use of the SPSS(computer package programme) and techniques of analyzing maternal histories and infant and childhood mortality data. Fourteen national staff from nine countries attended the workshop (Benin, Cameroon, Cote D'Ivoire, Kenya, Mauritania, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal and Sudan) with UNFPA providing funds amounting to $232,000 for 1984/85. A review seminar is planned for Cotonu in January 1986 to discuss the findings of the analytical reports prepared by participants since the last workshop. These country reports cover the analysis of infant and child mortality and fertility levels, crends and differentials. Both the training workshops and the review seminar are conducted jointly by the ECA secretariat and experts from the International Statistical Institute (ISI).

V. ECA Technical Assistance in Information and Documentation

44. It has been recognized for a long time now that the situation with regard to information and documentation activities in Africa is far from adequate to be useful in the process of national development and collective self-reliance. In parallel to actions being taken by member States to overcome this defficiency, the ECA has been executing a project for a Pan African Documentation and Information System (PADIS) which has the primary responsibility of assisting African countries in developing their national information management infrastucture.

45. Before enumerating the possible assistance that will be made available to African governments under the PADIS programme, it is perhaps useful to review briefly the problems that commonly obstruct the efficient organization and utilization of the national resource in information. For ease of analysis, the problems can be categorized as follows: (a) institutional constraints concerning policies, legislation, co-ordination, etc., (b) human resources constraints involving manpower, education, training and the status of information personnel, (c) infrastructural constraints including methods and technologies; and, (d) financial constraints.

46. In so far as institutional provisions are concerned, the following generalizations can be made: very few countries have a central agency responsible for information and documentation affairs and even where such agencies exist, there is vagueness as regards their function and roles. Legislation that regulate information and documentation activities are non-existant or ineffective. Co-ordination between government agencies discharging information and documentation activities is inadequate. Finally, information and documentation activities are rarely included in national development plans and in cases where they have been incorporated they suffer from a low rate of implementation.

47. The shortage of space and material resources have had a limiting effect on the effectiveness and expansion of services provided by existing centres. The introduction of standards and modern information processing technologies has been slow to contribute effectively to the smooth exchange of information among centres. Unavailability of catalogues and absence of national bibliographic control have precluded the optimum use of existing information. Likewise, marketing efforts by information and documentation centres have not been intensive enough to induce potential users to benefit from existing services.

48. The financial constraints faced by information and documentation centres is inherently linked to the low priority governments accord to this field vis-a-vis other domains. This might be in turn, attributed to the inadequate realization by policy makers of the contributions the organization of information and documentation could make towards national development.

49. Further to the above generalizations, it should be noted that the situation with regard to information and documentation activities varies significantly between the various subregions of the African continent; between the countries of any one sub-region; and, between the social and/or economic sectors of any one country.

50. The state of information and documentation activities, as summarized in the preceding paragraphs, dictates that assistance to member States in this field be as comprehensive and intensive as possible. However, the whole spectrum of assistance needs cannot be met by PADIS alone partly because the financial resources put at its disposal are limited and partly because it does not as yet possess all the requisite technical competence. Further, the wide diversity in the national situations calls for a highly flexible approach. As a result, the PADIS assistance scheme revolves around a strategy that aims at the establishment of new and/or strengthening of existing information and documentation centres which shall gradually assume the responsibility of organizing the national information infrastructure.

51. To this end, advisory services for the drafting of national information plans, policies and legislation and for undertaking research and studies to identify peculiar problems of the national situation will be a priority area of assistance. Member States will also be assisted in the planning and organization of national information and documentation centres; in the design and implementation of information gathering processing, storage, retrieval and dissemination mechanisms as well as in the setting up of networks of national information and documentation centres. Member States will also benefit from

technical advice on the selection of suitable computer hardware and software, and reprographic equipment. In this context, PADIS has assisted the Government of the Republic of Benin in the establishment of the "Centre National Automatisé de Documentation et de Information". This assistance included an assessment of the existing infrastructure; identification of a suitable host agency; the selection of a suitable computer configuration, the training of management and technical staff both on-site and at the PADIS/CCO in Addis Ababa, and, the transfer of methods and standards for the processing of bibliographic information. Further technical assistance is being planned and will be delivered as the operations of the centre advance and diversity.

52. Information and documentation centres of member States would also benefit from norms, standards and methodologies that are developed at the Central Co-ordination Office (CCO) of PADIS and that will be progressively replicated as and when the situation permits. To date, it has been possible to develop and/or adapt guidelines, tools and standards for the processing of bibliographic information as well as for the treatment of information on African experts. Further, a statistical data bank is being developed by the Statistics Division as one of the components of the PADIS numerical subsystem. When completed, the guidelines and tools utilized for the creation of the data bank will be replicated at the national level. Training programmes conducted at the national, subregional and regional levels have proved to be effective channels for disseminating the above tools and methodologies.

53. In addition, PADIS assistance gives emphasis to the development of middle level technical cadres in documentation, data base management, reprography, etc. through the provision of short-term on-the-job training. Equal significance is given to orienting senior level staff to the management of documentation systems, as well as to the design of national networks. In this regard the following have been accomplished: (a) orientation courses in the management of computerized documentation systems have been organized at the CCO in Addis Ababa for senior staff from ten African countries (Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo, Zaire; (b)on-the-job practical training in document analysis procedures have been organized at the national level in six countries (Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Guinea, Niger, and Togo) (c) training workshops and seminars were organized at Addis Ababa and Niamey during May and October 1985 respectively. Further, a one-week workshop/seminar on statistical data banks has been held in Addis Ababa during October 1985.

54. The fundamental aim of PADIS subregional centres, aside of their unique role in the planned regional network, is to make available to existing and emerging national centres facilities that might be either too expensive or uneconomical for them to acquire. Accordingly, the electronic data processing, reprography and telecommunication equipment installed or to be installed in the future) are to be shared by the national centres of the respective subregions. Also the experts to be stationed at the subregional centres are to be readily available for technical consultations. In this regard, although slow progress in the establishment of subregional centres has not made possible the launching of technical assistance from these centres, the facilities available at the CCO in Addis Ababa have been used to computerize information processed at the national level, to publish indexes to national literature and to produce micro-copies of original documents in Benin, Botswana, Guinea, Niger and Togo.

VI. Conclusions

55. As it can be seen from the brief summary given above, the ECA Technical assistance in planning, statistics, population and informatics and documentation during the period 1984-1985 continued to expand, especially as far as the technical advisory missions are concerned. This situation is justified by the fact that more and more African countries will no longer require the assistance of resident advisers in the fields indicated above as they get more trained counterpart staff. This approach is in accordance with the objective of self-reliance underlined in the Lagos Plan of Action. However, a few African countries still have accute shortages of qualified personnel in planning, statistics, population and informatics and documentation. Therefore the assistance of resident advisers may still be needed in such countries. In any case the two types of assistance are complementary to each other and are not mutually exclusive.

56. For the future, ECA will endeavour to respond to the increasing number of requests for assistance received from African Governments within the limits of the resources available to it. It would be most advisable if requests for such assistance are sent to ECA, preferably through the local UNDP Office, at least two months in advance in order to ensure a proper planning and preparation of the missions. Emphasis will also continue to be put on training in planning, statistics, demography and informatics and documentation through relevant institutions in Africa, on-the-job training, workshop and seminars. Finally, the co-ordination of technical assistance activities at the regional and subregional levels will continue to be ensured.

LIST OF PROJECTS EXECUTED BY ECA IN THE F
AND INFORMATICS AND DO

Division/Office Funding Agency and Project Title	
I. SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESEARCH AND PLANNING DIVISION (SERPD)	
- UNDP Institute for Economic Development Planning (IDEP)	R
TOTAL SERPD	
II. STATISTICS DIVISION	
A. UNFPA	
(i) Regional Advisory Service in Demographic Statistics (RASDS)	R
(ii) Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa/Regional Centre for Population Studies (UDEAC/CREP)	R
(iii) Workshop on Census Taking and Use of Statistical Software Packages for French-Speaking African Countries	R
(iv) Bilingual Workshop on development of Civil Registration System and Vital Statistics Collection in Africa	R
Sub-Total (A)	

ELDS OF PLANNING, STATISTICS, POPULATION
UMENTATION

roject Number	Approved budget in US dollars		
	1984	1985	Total
F/82/063	810,542	689,458	1,500,000
	810,542	689,458	1,500,000
F/84/P01	615,000	653,000	1,268,000
F/84/P02	115,000	117,300	233,300
F/84/P20	90,518	-	90,518
F/85/P01	-	77,856	77,856
	822,518	848,156	1,670,674

	Division/Office Funding Agency and Project Title	P
B	UNDP	
(i)	African Household Survey Capability Programme (AHSCP)	RAF/7
(ii)	National Accounts Capability Programme (NACP)	RAF/7
(iii)	Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA)	RAF/8
	Sub-Total (B)	
	TOTAL STATISTICS DIVISION	
III.	POPULATION DIVISION	
-	UNFPA	
(i)	Regional Demographic Advisory Services	RAF/8
(ii)	Sahel Institute	RAF/8
(iii)	POPIN-Africa	RAF/8
(iv)	Regional Workshop on Demographic Estimates and Projections	RAF/8
(v)	Analysis of National WFS Data	RAF/8
(vi)	IFORD	RAF/8
(vii)	RIPS	RAF/8
	TOTAL POPULATION DIVISION	

oject Number	Approved budget in US dollars		
	1984	1985	Total
016/"P"/01/51	133,974	143,517	277,491
061/../45/51	10,971	47,580	58,451
051	307,386	378,999	686,386
	452,741	570,087	1,022,828
	1,275,259	1,418,243	2,693,502
P06	215,960	293,606	509,566
P05	138,726	165,000	303,726
P15	149,971	269,806	419,777
P28	-	145,900	145,900
P07	124,520	43,449	167,969
P03	638,052	796,938	1,435,000
P04	763,581	770,250	1,533,831
	2,030,820	2,404,949	4,515,769

	Division/Office Funding Agency and Project Title	Pr
IV.	PAN-AFRICAN DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION SYSTEM (PADIS)	
	A. UNDP	
	(i) Creation, establishment and consolidation of the Pan-African Documentation and Information System (PADIS)	
	(ii) Establishment of Pan-African Documentation Referral System for Technical Co-operation Among African Countries (TCDC Roster Africa)	
	Sub-Total (A)	
	B. International Development Research Centre (IDRC)	
	- Support to the improvement and expansion of the PADIS Training Programme in Africa	
	TOTAL PADIS	
	GRAND TOTAL	
	TOTAL UNFPA	
	TOTAL UNDP	
	TOTAL IDRC	

ject Number	Approved budget in US dollars		
	1984	1985	Total
F/04/005	978,568	432,237	1,410,805
F/01/037	70,302	36,805	107,107
	1,048,950	468,042	1,517,992
	100,332	132,900	233,232
	1,149,282	601,942	1,751,224
	5,215,203	5,194,592	10,409,795
	2,853,335	3,333,108	6,186,443
	2,312,233	1,728,567	4,040,820
	100,332	132,900	233,232

LIST OF REGIONAL ADVISERS IN POST DURING THE PERIOD 1984 - 1985

1. STATISTICS

Name and nationality	Programme/Post Description	Duty Station	Entry on duty	Departure
(i) E. A. Colecraft (Chana)	PASDS; Chief Technical Adviser, Demographic Statistics/Civil Registration (English-speaking countries)	Addis Ababa	July 1978	in post
(ii) Hamady Sow (Mali)	PASDS; Regional Adviser in Demographic Statistics (French-speaking countries)	Niamey MULPOC	July 1980	in post
iii) D. E. Benzine (Algeria)	PASDS; Regional Adviser in Data Processing	Addis Ababa	Oct. 1979	December 1984 (re-assigned to PADIS)
(iv) Jean-Marc Hie (Cameroon)	PASDS; Regional Adviser in Data Processing	Addis Ababa	March 1985	in post
(v) Oumar Bocoum (Mali)	PASDS; Regional Adviser in Census Cartography (French-speaking countries)	Addis Ababa	Jan. 1983	in post
(vi) Roger Hare (United Kingdom)	PASDS; Regional Adviser in Census Cartography (English-speaking countries)	Addis Ababa	Oct. 1980	Sept. 1985
vii) Abdou-Karim Diop (Senegal)	PASDS; Regional Adviser in Civil Registration (French-speaking countries)	Yaounde MULPOC	Sept.1981	in post
iii) C. Kelperis (Creece)	AMSCP; Chief Technical Adviser, Household Survey Specialist (English-speaking countries	Addis Ababa	April 1984	December 1985
(ix) Josef Bielecki (Poland)	AMSCP; Household Survey Specialist (French-speaking countries)	Addis Ababa	May 1984	in post

	Name and nationality	Programme/Post Description	Duty Station	Entry on duty	Departure
(x)	N. C. Pillai (India)	NACP; Regional Adviser in National Accounts	Addis Ababa	Jan. 1981	July 1984
(xi)	T. C. Jones (United Kingdom)	NACP; Regional Adviser in National Accounts	Addis Ababa	July 1985	in post
(xii)	K. K. Eockor (Togo)	STPA; Statistical Training Adviser (French-speaking countries)	Addis Ababa	Jan. 1983	in post
(xiii)	E. F. Ching'anda, (Malawi)	STPA; Statistical Training Adviser (English-speaking countries)	Addis A.	August 1984	in post
(xiv)	A. Simonpietri, (France)	UDEAC/CREP, Chief Technical Adviser, Population censuses, Demographic Surveys	Bangui	Sept.1981	in post
(xv)	A. Mayouya (Congo)	UDEAC/CREP; Associate expert	Bangui	Nov. 1981	Nov. 1984
(xvi)	A. Mayouya (Congo)	UDEAC/CREP, Expert in Civil Registration and Social Statistics	Bangui	July 1985	in post
2.	POPULATION				
(i)	K. V. Ramachandran, (India)	Regional Demographic Adviser (English-speaking countries)	Addis Ababa	Sept. 1981	in post
(ii)	Pierre Fokom, (Cameroon)	Regional Demographic Adviser (French-speaking countries)	Addis Ababa	June 1983	in post
(iii)	M. Sala-Diakanda, (Zaire)	Regional Demographic Adviser (French-Speaking countries)	Addis Ababa	December 1984	December 1985 (re-assigned to IFORD)

ABBREVIATIONS

RASDS:	Regional Advisory Service in Demographic Statistics
MHSCP:	Household Survey Capability Programme
NACP:	National Accounts Capability Programme
STPA:	Statistical Training Programme for Africa
UDEAC/ CREP:	Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa/Regional Centre for Population Studies